future to discuss the bilateral problems and also to establish better ties between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) Pursuant to the meeting of the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries met in Islamabad from 18 to 20 December, 1990 and agreed, *inter-alia*, to resume discussions on the boundary in the Sir Creek Area and on the Tulbul Navigation Project; and to convene the Sub-Commissions of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission at an appropriate time.

As a follow-up, the Instruments of Ratification of the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and facilities were exchanged on 27 January, 1991; and regular weekly telephonic contact was established between the Directors General of Military Operations of the two countries.

Foreign Secretaries will meet again at mutually convenient dates. This would be preceded by a meeting of the experts to finalise the Agreement on Prevention of Airspace Violation by Military Aircraft and Agreement on Advance Notice of Military Exercises and Manoeuvres.

Damage to life and property of Indians In Iraq and Saudi Arabia

444. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any damage to life and property of Indians living in Iraq and Saudi Arabia during the recent Gulf war; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to safeguard the life and property of Indians in the Gulf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) There is only one confirmed report of death of an Indian in Iraq. There is also a confirmed report of the destruction of the house of an Indian engineer in Saudi Arabia.

(b) Indian Missions have taken all possible measures, in cooperation with the governments of their accreditation, to safeguard the life and property of Indians in the Gulf.

Bandh in Pakistan in support of secessionists of Kashmir

445. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Government sponsored bandh in Pakistan on 5th February, 1991 called by the Prime Minister of that country in support of the scessionist elements of JKLF; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and whether any protest has been lodged with the Government of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) The Prime Minister of Pakistan had given a call for observance of a general strike on 5 February, 1991, to express "solidarity with the people of Kashmir".

(b) Government feel that such actions are in violation of the Simla Agreement and not conducive to the establishment of good neighbourly relations.

Refuelling facilities to US Air Force planes at Indian Airports

446. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted refuelling facilities to U.S. Air Force planes at Indian Airports;

(b) if so, what was the number of such planes during the period from 16th January to 15th February, 1991; and

(c) whether Government have received any protest from the Government of Iraq

in this regard and if so, the details thereof and what is the reaction of Government of India in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes Sir, the transit and refuelling facility was provided to US Air Force transport aircraft.

(b) 100 aircrafts.

(c) No, Sir. Government have, however, seen the statement issued by the Government of Iraq on this issue. Government have conveyed to the Government of Iraq that the transit and refuelling facilities provided to US Air Force transport aircraft was solely for the purpose of transporting non-lethal cargo and for evacuating personnel on humanitarian, medical and emergency considerations.

Resrtiction on Dalai Lama's political activities in India

447. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued directions restraining Dalai Lama from indulging in political activities in India; and

(b) if so, the details of such directions and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) Government have all along maintained that H. H. the Dalai Lama, who is a respected religious and spiritual leader, should not conduct political activities on Indian soil, incompatible with Government's well known stand on the status of Tibet.

"Formulation of a new system of Environmental Clearance for Industries"

448. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a new system of Environmental Clearance for Industries; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

"Flouting of rules by the Museum"

449. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioning "Museum flouts rule, doles out rare fauna to U. S. when preservers turn destroyers" appearing in Indian Express of 4th January, 1991; and

(b) whether any inquiry has been made into the allegations made therein, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Government has seen the news item. The Indo-US Herpetological Project is a research project, undertaken by the National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi, in collaboration with Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburg, USA, to study the environmental diversity of the amphibians and reptiles in selected regions of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Such of the specimens collected by field teams from selected sites as require further examination and analysis are sent to Carnegie Museum. The project provides that 50 per cent of the collected specimens will be returned to the National Museum of Natural History after completion of their study at the Carnegie Museum.

Fall-out of new Motor Vehicle Act

450. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: